



WOLF CHRONICLE

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From the Editor

Dear Members

Thank you for continuing to support us and with your help we have raised a lot of money for the projects abroad that work so hard to keep wolves safe in the wild.

I do hope that you will be able to come and see our wolves at one of our events this year. There are some really exciting things planned. The Open days every Wednesday from 11am -4pm are still very popular and the wolves enjoy seeing all the visitors, so do use your free entry ticket and come along.

On Pancake Day the wolves "wolfed down" "meaty filled wraps that

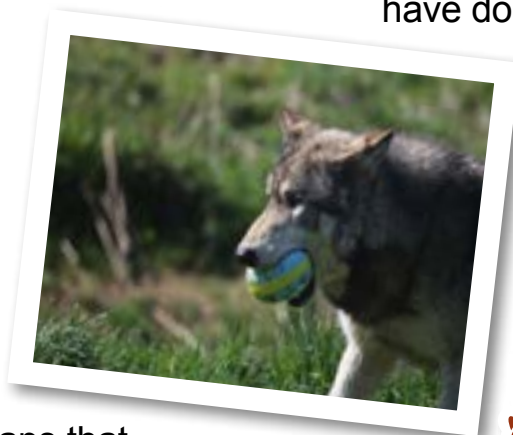


were made for them by the children that came to the event. Over the Easter holidays we had a children's chocolate Easter egg hunt and then the wolves were given hard boiled goose eggs which the children had decorated. After that cardboard eggs were filled with meats, cheese and eggs and put into the enclosures so that the wolves could eagerly rip into them and find the treats.

Thank you to everyone who sent in letters, stories or models. Do please continue to send things in as we love to see what you have done. Have you any short wolf jokes?

We do hope that you enjoy reading this issue and that you all have a great time in the holidays.

Wendy





THE DIRE WOLF

(Canis Dirus or Fierce dog)

The dire wolf is the largest known species of wolf and the heaviest canid ever to have existed. From skeletons found in North America we know that the dire wolf measured on average 5 feet long, 2 feet tall and weighed around 80 kg. A much heftier beast with larger teeth and skull than the grey wolf, its powerful build and short legs indicate that it was probably more of an ambush hunter and less of a long distance runner than today's wolves. Research indicates that their diet was probably 50% bison and 50% horse. Most scientists agree that the dire wolf formed social groups and hunted in packs which could have been 30 or more animals.

The Dire wolf and grey wolf both inhabited the same areas of North America, however the grey wolf was found in fewer numbers. It is believed that the dire wolf controlled the grey wolf numbers much as wolves often control coyote numbers today.

It is thought that the Dire wolf became extinct between 16,000 and 10,000 years ago during the Pleistocene era. This was a time of giants; huge animals like the mammoth which was 12 feet tall at the shoulder and the ground sloth as large as a modern day bear. We have to rely on the fossil record to find out about these impressive animals and many skeletons have been found in the La Brea tar pits in what is today Los Angeles.

The exact cause of the dire wolves extinction is unknown, but climate change and the settling of human beings in the Americas have been seen as possible contributory factors. It is thought that humans hunted the large herbivores so successfully that large carnivores could no longer find enough food. It is possible that because the dire wolves had always hunted larger prey and ignored the smaller, easier prey they simply couldn't adapt to killing smaller prey efficiently. The smaller grey wolf did not have this problem and therefore is still alive today.

At the Wolf Trust we have replica skulls from a dire wolf, modern wolf, dog and fox in the education room so that visitors can make comparisons.

Exerts from article by Mike Collins.
Wolf Keeper and Site Manager.



Picture from Wikipedia

DIFFERENT BREEDS OF WOLF

HONSHU WOLF

Honshū wolves, the smaller descendants of grey wolves, were plentiful in the country of Japan. They were the smallest known wild subspecies of *Canis lupus*; they measured about 35 inches (90 cm) long and 12 inches (30 cm) inches at the shoulder. Their population began to decrease in 1732 when rabies, was introduced to the area they inhabited. It affected different wolf populations all through the nineteenth century. Most argue that it was humans that brought the virus to Japan, trying to kill the wolves on purpose. It is also believed that local domestic dogs in the regions may have spread the disease. Either way, along with intense human hunting, the wolves slowly became extinct. The last known specimen died in 1905. They must have been really cute.



TASMANIAN TIGER - WOLF (Thylacine)

Like many unique species in Australia, the Tasmania Tiger resembled nothing else on Earth. Striped like a tiger, but built like a wolf, the Tasmanian tiger-wolf actually was neither, but a marsupial like the kangaroo, with a pouch for carrying its young. Unlike the kangaroo the Tasmanian tiger's pouch faces backwards so the babies do not get hurt when the mother is running. It became extinct on mainland Australia thousands of years ago because it couldn't compete with the dingo for food, but thrived on the island of Tasmania until Europeans arrived. In 1936, the last one died in captivity. Some people still think that they are alive in remote areas of Tasmania but it has never been proved.



Turn over for more!



UKWCT PROJECTS

INDIAN WOLF PROJECT

This project managed by Ashwin Aghor is aimed at surveying the numbers of wolves in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra in India. Currently there is very little official information on the wolf population. U.K.W.C.T has so far, with your help, donated £5,000 to this project. The 1444 sq km grassland will initially be surveyed for a period of one month for random counts of wolf packs. This will act as a baseline for further population counts.

Then the whole area will then be divided into quadrats (squares) and each quadrat will be studied using line transects (lines drawn across the square) and packs and individuals counted along the lines. The distribution across the study area will be mapped to understand the range of the wolves and the population density. A base assessment of the landscape has been completed, randomly assessing the habitat and the animals that live there. This study has not been detailed due to lack of funds.

Ashwin Aghor stated that there is no funding for the program and that for the last two years the team have been using their own money as and when it was needed. They are trying to find some form of financial backing.

When asked about government support Ashwin Aghor replied that since the work involves interactions with wildlife and wolves in forest areas, permission will be sought before the release of funds from the relevant government departments for the research work, but that he did not

anticipate any problems.

These beautiful animals need protection and our help to continue to survive in the wild.

Collecting data - It is usually not possible to count the entire population of a particular animal or plant in its habitat. This means that the population must be sampled. It may involve transects and quadrats.

Transects - A transect is a line across a habitat or part of a habitat. It can be as simple as a string or rope placed in a line on the ground. The number of organisms of each species can be observed and recorded at regular intervals along the transect.

Quadrat - A quadrat is usually a square made of wire. It may contain further wires to mark off smaller areas inside, such as 5 x 5 or 10 x 10 squares. The organisms underneath, usually plants, can be identified and counted. Of course when you are counting wolves or animals in the wild the quadrats are larger and can cover many kilometres. Why don't you try this using string pegged to the ground and count plants or any insects or snails etc

you may see? Use several different habitats so that you can compare the results. Maybe your garden and a field for example and try counting in different weather conditions and at different times of year. Make a diary to record your results.

Turn over for more!





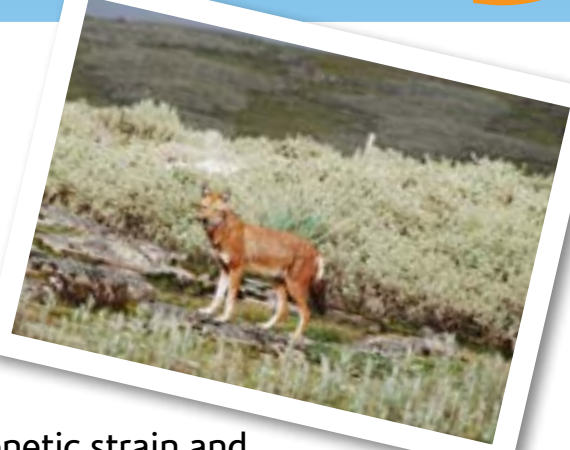
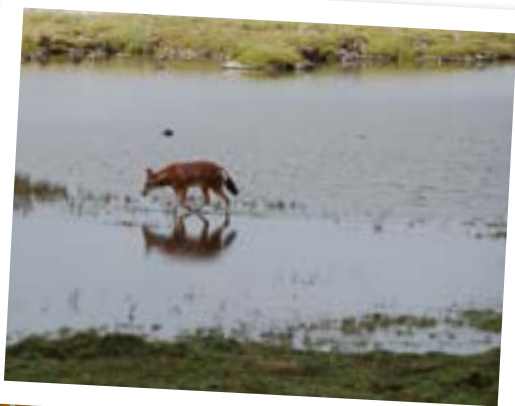
UKWCT PROJECTS

With your support we are able to support many conservation projects abroad. This issue we will be looking at the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme. Since 2007, with your help, we have donated £30,500 towards this project which has helped towards monitoring wolves in the Bale Mountains.

1. THE ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

“People protect what they love and understand”. Jacques-Yves Cousteau. The Ethiopian wolf is critically endangered and with less than 450 adults left in the world. This means that there are fewer Ethiopian wolves left in the world than giant pandas, mountain gorillas or snow leopards. It is ranked as one of the world’s most endangered species.

The Ethiopian wolf only lives in Ethiopia and their habitat is 7 isolated areas in the high mountain ranges surrounding the Great Rift Valley. As solitary hunters their diet consists mainly of rodents such as the giant mole. The main threats to the survival of the Ethiopian wolf are loss of habitat from the rapid growth of agriculture and livestock grazing, breeding with domestic dogs which weakens the pure



genetic strain and more significantly diseases from domestic dogs such as Rabies, Distemper and the Parvovirus. Rabies has the potential to wipe out entire populations of the species. With the support of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme has seven wolf monitors in the field at all times, following the wolves and collecting data on their behaviour, breeding success and health. The monitors are the first to spot signs of disease in the various wolf packs, and are able to notify the veterinary officers in time to take preventative actions. In addition, two vet teams work to vaccinate over 6000 domestic dogs each year in villages surrounding wolf populations. This helps to prevent the spread of rabies to the wolves. The local people are taught about the dangers of rabies, and encouraged to have their dogs vaccinated each year.

An ongoing education programme works with the local school children, teaching them the value of conservation and instilling in them a sense of pride in their environment, and the Ethiopian wolves in particular. These beautiful animals are on the brink of extinction so every penny we can give can help to save them. Thank you all for helping us by being members and coming to events at the Trust.

Trust Wolves



Mosi & Torak The height of the breeding season has passed and the wolves' hormones will be settling down – so life will be calmer for them. This means enrichment walks can begin again soon, which the wolves and handlers really enjoy. Torak slowly meanders round sniffing new smells and enjoying his walks whilst Mosi goes like a rocket to over scent any other wolves' smells she can. Whilst Mosi and Torak are not going out on their walks, we make sure they are provided with other enrichment to keep them stimulated.

Mosi, with her beautiful silvery coat, is a great character and continues to be a delight as she approaches her ninth birthday in April. She is popular with handlers and public alike. As our only unspayed female, Mosi really comes into her own during breeding season. Her feisty personality asserts itself and Torak is subjected to alternate bouts of intense affection and jealous grumpiness if she feels he isn't paying her the correct attention. She and Torak remain in the top enclosure, which suits Mosi as she is a very curious animal and likes to see what is going on. As the cars park outside before a walk, Mosi will patrol the front of the fence, greeting people with whines and squeaks.

She can also be guaranteed to give a good howl, so visitors who have always wanted to hear a wolf's unique voice don't go away disappointed.

Torak is aloof and strikingly handsome and is one of our most adopted wolves. Torak has inherited the best attributes of his European father and North American mother with his strikingly marked coat, long legs and broad head. Although he is very tolerant of Mosi's attentions, he will put her in her place in no uncertain terms if she gets out of hand. He is quite something to see when he does this, growling fiercely with hackles raised, but it is only a scolding and Mosi will lick him enthusiastically afterwards so there is no harm done. Torak will usually take himself off to the highest platform afterwards and Mosi knows better than to follow!!



Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves

Mai & Motomo

Mai has been digging again. As winter moves towards its end, her instincts are to prepare for the possible arrival of spring cubs, and so she has begun to excavate two dens in the mound in her enclosure .



If Mai happens to get in the way of the fence-running, Motomo is adept at doing a flying leap clean over her without even slowing down. It's great entertainment for participants and onlookers alike. Mai looks very regal with her silvery white coat and loves to lie in front of some logs at the base of the mound to get maximum winter sun whilst Motomo sits on top of the mound master of all he surveys.

Motomo has also dug a very deep den which he disappears into leaving Mai whining at the entrance. She remains deeply attached to Motomo – they are often to be seen lying close to each other at the edge of the copse at the rear of their enclosure, or together on top of the mound. Motomo likes to harass Massak in the adjoining enclosure – their fence running being a great way to appreciate just how fast a wolf can move when it is motivated. Motomo does look impressively intimidating when he's walking tall, fully hackled up and has his tail raised. Massak sometimes tries to 'hide' and ambush Motomo during these fence-run sessions, but Massak forgets that a large white wolf is very easy to spot even when crouched down.



Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves

Nuka, Tala & Tundra – the Beennam Pack – are now in their full winter coats, so the past frosty days and snowfall have not worried them at all. Tala loves to roll about in snow, and Nuka has a fascination for ice: he will chew vigorously on the inch-thick slabs of the stuff we fish out of the water



buckets in the enclosures. Or when we are out on walks in the top field he loves to have a friendly handler scoop a sheet of ice out of the cattle troughs so he can snap at it, crunch it up, and then roll on it in a state of obvious bliss. Tala will sometimes happily do the “rolling on ice” thing too. Tundra generally watches these antics from a distance, with an air of detached derision.

When they go out on walks both Nuka and Tala are still happy to get involved with visitors, but Tundra remains generally aloof and observes goings on from a distance.



They are adept at flushing wildlife from the hedges and have worked out the hiding place of a local cat that is sometimes to be seen in the top field – they head straight for this spot in the hope of finding the cat in residence. Nuka can't seem to keep quiet when doing this so if he gets to see the cat it's invariably just the sight of a tail disappearing into the bushes. The horses in the bottom field by the stream are also a source of intrigue for Nuka and Tala. As the breeding season approaches, there is clearly an elevation of tension within the pack, and this can sometimes lead to



vigorous and noisy squabbles. Another side effect of the season is that the Beenhams are rather more affectionate towards handlers”. Tundra is somewhat more reserved, but a minute or so of massage around her neck and shoulders will see her relax and adopt a rather goofy eyes-half-closed expression of happiness.





Trust Wolves

Spring is when the **Arctic** wolves show their fabulous coats off at their best. They seem to almost double in size as their soft winter coat fully develops and thickens. Winter in the UK isn't much of a challenge for these guys and their coats will never become as thick as their wild cousins as they adapt comfortably to the environment they live in. Our Arctic wolves are all now fully mature animals and maturity defines the pack dynamics even further. Massak, our dominant male has truly established his place as pack leader and spends plenty of time ensuring Pukak, our lower ranking male, knows his place and stays there.

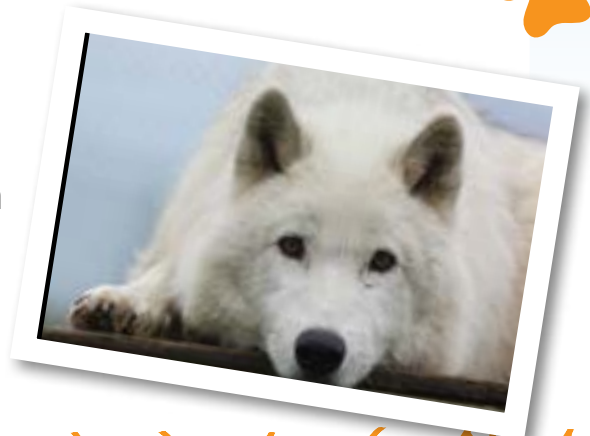


Even as a mature and dominant male, Massak is still incredibly loving towards his favourite handlers and enjoys nuzzling us and receiving cuddles.

Pukak for his part accepts his brother's leadership but as all siblings do, he will still try to get away with some minor naughtiness if he can.

Sometimes Massak will let him unless Pukak just goes one step too far – then boy, does he know it! As the lower ranking male Pukak will always be the one to try it on with not only his brother but also his human friends. A strong glare from one of his handlers is usually enough to stop him in his tracks. Sikko, our female tends to side with Massak and can be incredibly naughty towards Pukak. She knows Massak has her back but is still clever enough to show respect to both Massak and Pukak in order to keep both her brothers' support rather than be told off by either. As the only female in the pack Sikko has always exploited this fact and she knows neither of the boys will become too boisterous or aggressive with her regardless what she does as long as she shows submission at just the right time.

Winter through spring is always the most wonderful time to observe wolf pack interaction, in the wild or in captivity. All too soon, the hormones have reduced and the coats are shedding as the wolves will prepare to move into the long warm lazy days of summer.





FLYING BEES TEACH WOEFUL WOLVES A LESSON



Issy Stevens, aged 10, is a pupil at St Finian's Catholic Primary School in Cold Ash, Berkshire and her teacher, Mrs Hicks, asked the class to write a story based on a local newspaper headline. Having had a visit from a Wolf Trust volunteer, Issy knows all about the wolves at the Trust and here is the story she wrote. (All names and events are fictional.)

On a beautiful, sunny Monday morning in the gorgeous woodland surrounded village of Cold Ash, the resident wolf sanctuary was bombarded with a swarm of bees resembling a hurricane. Verity Szala, resident of Cold Ash village remarked "I never imagined that a swarm of bees could successfully attack fierce, ferocious yet charming wolves and make them dive into water for sanctuary." Bee keeper and expert on the subject, Grace Steele explained the phenomenon: "With the recent change of weather and a bombard of chemicals in the atmosphere it has changed the behaviour of the queen bee. Rather than being content in the hive, she has ordered her army of bees to attack the nearest living predator. We know this because of recent examples of bees attacking domestic dogs. " Harry Blair, owner of a black labrador recently witnessed this scene. "The bees came from nowhere. Tumbling out of the sky almost in an arrow formation and made a beeline for my puppy! We only managed to escape by diving into a nearby outdoor swimming pool. It was freezing!" Recent reports suggest that this bee-madness is on the increase in the south of England. Strangely, no other animals apart from the canine variety have been reportedly attacked. The owner of the Berkshire Wolf Sanctuary, Mrs Hicks has had to nurse and nurture her pack of wolves night and day from their injuries from this incident. She believes that the queen bee ordered this attack because their precious hive had been recently moved from St. Finian's School to the overgrown and grubby field next to the wolf sanctuary. Her wolf puppies have recently been taking puppy lessons in that field & may have annoyed the bees with their curiosity and high pitched barking. "However that is no excuse" remarked Mrs Hicks "My poor wolves have bee stings everywhere including their tongues! Several wolf cubs are in a critical condition. It is a harsh lesson for wolf cubs to learn that even a small bee can really hurt a big, fluffy, dangerous animal. "Police have warned residents to lock all windows & doors and keep bee sting medicine close at hand."



Wolf Poo Cookies

Ingredients

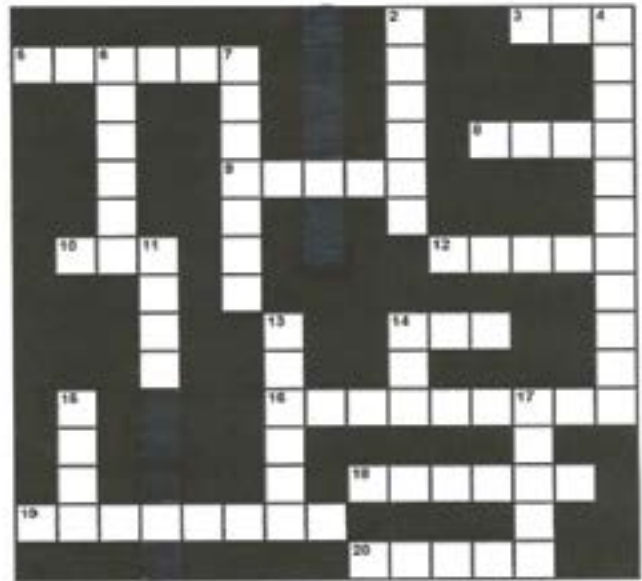
- 270 gm oats
 - 6 teaspoonful cocoa powder
 - 100gm coconut flakes
 - 115 gm butter
 - 400gm sugar
 - 120ml milk
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- You will need a large mixing bowl, a wooden spoon, a saucepan and some parchment paper.

Method.

Put the butter, sugar, milk and vanilla essence into a saucepan and melt until liquid.

Put the oats, cocoa powder and coconut into the mixing bowl and add the melted liquid. Mix together well with the wooden spoon until it goes lumpy. Then lay out on the parchment paper in wolf poo shapes and leave to set

Keep in the fridge until you are ready to enjoy them.



ACROSS

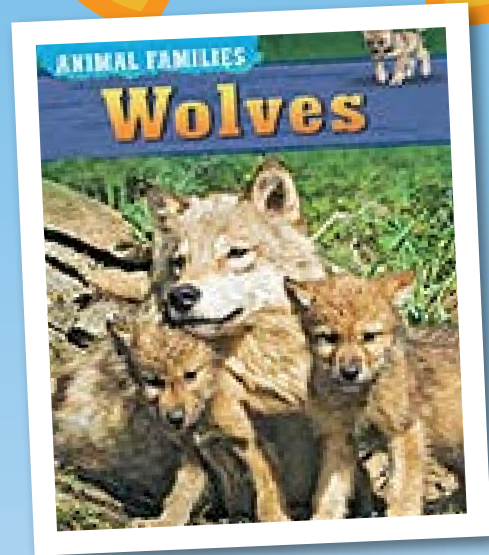
3. Month in which cubs are born.
5. The ----- wolf lives in a land of ice and snow.
8. The well-known sound a wolf makes.
9. Camouflage colour of the Arctic Wolf.
10. A colourful wolf that is critically endangered in the U.S.A (Canis Rufus).
12. Wolves live in groups, or -----.
14. Wolves belong to the canine, or --- family.
16. A wolf is a flesh eater, or -----.
18. Another name for the Grey Wolf is the ----- Wolf. (Think of trees).
19. The half- man, half- wolf of fiction is a -----.
20. The dominant male or female of a pack used to be called an -----.

DOWN

2. The plural of wolf is -----.
4. This U.S National Park with hot springs is famous for its wolf reintroduction programme.
6. A smaller member of the canine family related closely to the wolf.
7. To shout out an alarm falsely (Two words).
11. Wolves are more active at dusk and ----.
13. An Asian or African member of the canine family.
14. Wolves' cubs are born in a ----.
15. An extinct ancient wolf.
17. The lowest ranking wolf was called an ----- wolf.



Book Reviews



'Face to Face with Wolves' by Jim and Judy Brandenburg

As with any National Geographic publication, the excellent photography captures the essence of the subject, and the amazing image of a wolf on the front cover leaves you in no doubt as to what this book is about. It follows the journey of the author as he follows a life-long passion and fascination in wolves, to capture their daily lives and raise awareness of the plight of wolves in the wild.

The text provides plenty of detail about the wolves, everything you would want to know (and even a little bit more!) All aspects of their lives is covered in detail: from the birth of cubs, to learning to play and hunt, finding their way in the pack and later in the world, to coping with the environmental changes and dangers posed by humanity. The author strives to counter the negative views of wolves through providing the information in an interesting and accessible way. He urges us to learn to cohabit successfully with wolves as they play a vital part in particular ecosystems. Jim Brandenburg is an award winning international photographer, who collaborates closely with his wife, Judy, in producing documentaries and books about wildlife.

RRP £4.99

Animal Families - Wolves by Tim Harris

In this attractive little book, planned with reference to the National Curriculum, its readers will learn how wolves survive as a family unit and how their survival depends on each member of the pack working together. It shows their softer nature and how mother wolves are caring and affectionate with their cubs. Stunning photography, graphics and clear text illustrate how individuals rely on their family for food, shelter, raising cubs and most importantly security. The book explains how the wolves hunt, what their prey is, and how they defend themselves. It also describes how their environment and availability of food and resources shapes their physical and behavioural characteristics. This book is ideal for children of all ages as the photographs are beautiful and it is so easy to understand.

RRP £12.99

Both books available from the Trust.



Wolfy Art Work

One open day we had a visit from 8 yr old Lucy Thirkell and she brought with her an amazing covered shoe box filled with paper people and wolves made from pipe cleaners. She had also made a booklet about the Wolf Trust and the wolves. Each wolf is described accurately with sometimes humorous comments and she says where they were born, what kind of wolf they are and even uses their Latin names. For example-“Mosi and Torak can be very playful together. Torak is the biggest wolf at the Trust. Mosi is a very bold wolf that can be annoying to Torak.”



The handwriting, design and content are very impressive. Well done Lucy.



Proof that the Wolf Chronicle gets far and wide!

'Master Mindstormers'

(Derek, Aaron, Elisha, Aiden and Peter)



We were contacted recently by the coach of a group of 7th Grade children involved in a project to encourage children to compete in areas related to Science and technology – called 'FIRST®'. For this year's theme of 'World Class' the teams were asked to come up with an innovative way to teach a concept. The 'Master Mindstormers' designed a board game to educate children about negative stereotypes and how this type of thinking can affect lives. Having chosen the wolf theme, the game is based around animal and plant populations in an environment and how these vary during the year, depending on the seasons and decisions made by the players. Included in the game are fact cards, decision cards and discussion points to raise awareness about the near extinction levels of wolves in North America and other parts of the world. The game is a non-threatening way for children to explore stereotypes and challenge their thinking.

The website <http://theothersideofthewolf.weebly.com/> explains the game in more detail and provides the files for you to download, print off and play the game.

Well done to the team for winning an award for this game!

The Wolf Trust takes no responsibility for the content of any external website.

Donations

Recently Ciaran Vella (11) visited the Trust & presented us with a donation of £8.70. Ciaran raised this money for us by asking his family to put any loose change into a collection tin for us. What a great idea Ciaran, as it all helps.

If you would like to raise funds for the Trust, quite an easy way is to save the stamps from envelopes. Cut round the stamps leaving approx 5mm of envelope all the way round & send to UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, Berks, RG7 5NT or bring them when you next come to visit the wolves.



(Top)Derek, Aaron, Elisha, Aiden & Pete. Ciaran Vella photo: Mike Collins

Events

Wednesday Visit Day

Wednesday 27th May & every Wednesday through August 11am - 4pm

Adults £8, children 3-12 £5, under 3's free.

Additional children's activities will be held.

Children's Wolf Walk

🐾 28th May, 23rd July, 30th July, 6th August, 13th August, 20th August & 27th August 11am.

£15 per person.

Have a talk all about the wolves at the Trust, and then join the wolves on a walk around the fields at the Trust. Maximum of 1 adult per child.

Pre - booking required.



Wolf Walk & Wolves Birthday Cake

🐾 Monday 25th May 11am - 1.30pm

£17 per person.

Help decorate special cakes for the wolves to eat to celebrate their birthdays & then join them on a wolf walk & watch whilst they scent mark & interact with each other. Maximum of 1 adult per child.

Pre - booking required.



Please note: Any dates here on after will no longer have wolf contact, i.e. no "meet and greets". This is due to the Ambassador wolves having matured now that they are 4years old. Walking with the wolves will still take place and there will be plenty of photographic opportunities and chances to observe them up close enjoying their walk.

Dot to Dot



Crossword Answers

Across :

3. May, 5. Arctic, 8. Howl, 9. White, 10. Red, 12. Packs, 14. Dog, 16. Carnivore, 19. Werewolf, 20. Alpha

Down :

2. Wolves, 4. Yellowstone, 6. Coyote, 7. Crywolf, 11. Dawn, 13. Jackal, 14. Den, 15. Dire, 17. Omega